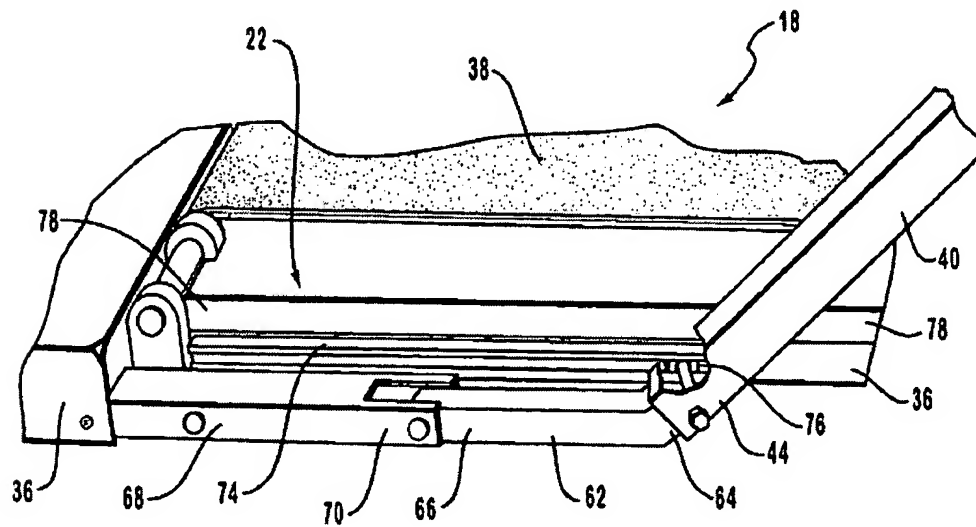


Claim 28 has been amended to cite hinged front and rear rail sections where the foot end remains in proximity to the floor in the folded position and the folded portions of the rails are substantially vertical. Claim 28 has also been amended to add a carriage to the reformer in order to provide more structure in claim 29.

5 Claim 29 has been amended to cite a spring gear bar and a spring bar adjustment bracket.

**Daleabout '834**



**FIG. 2A**

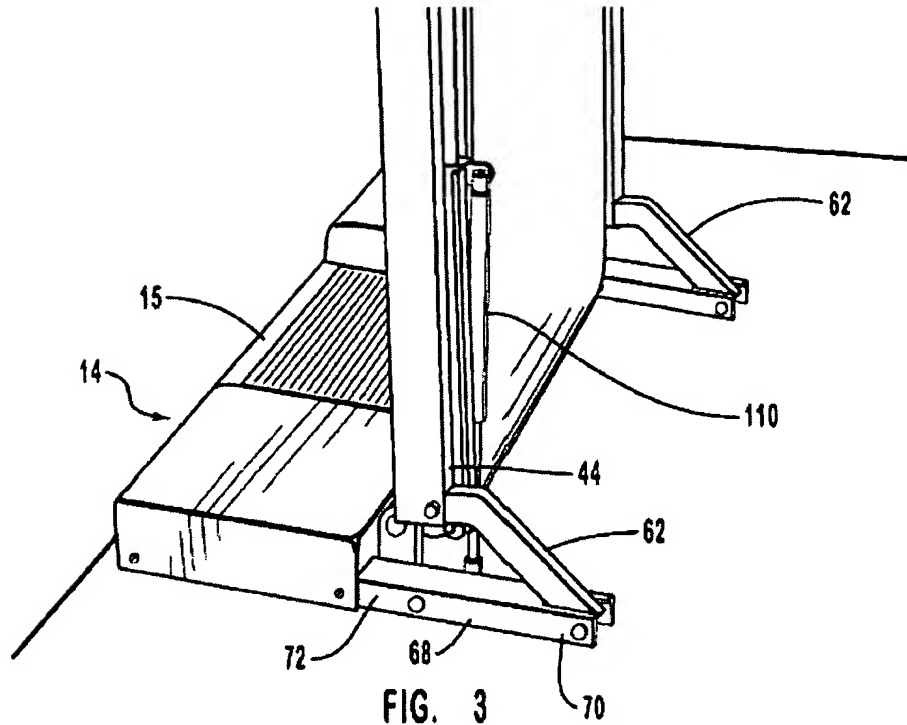


FIG. 3

The reformer equivalent of a Daleabout machine would have a set of hinges on one end of the carriage rails only. By contrast, the current invention permits the carriage rails to pivot with respect to the head end, and further includes a set of middle hinges where the front and rear portions of the rails are folded. The two sets of hinges in the current invention permit the effective folding of the reformer. The length of the reformer is typically substantially greater than the length of a treadmill. This added length of the reformer renders impractical a single set of hinges at the ends of the rails, because of the height of the reformer and the required counterbalance. The middle hinge concept is integral to the folding concept of the current invention. Hinges located near the end of the rails, as suggested by Daleabout, do not support this type of folding.

15

“Referring now to Fig. 4, which is a front perspective view of the folded reformer and to Fig. 5 which is a rear perspective view of the folded reformer, each reformer rail may be folded along a *middle hinge* 240 located between the frame rail sections on each rail so as the rails are folded....”[Current Application 8:5-10]

**§103 Rejection of claims 1-2 and 4-6 based on Endelman '685 in view of Daleabout**

4. Applicant respectfully traverses the §103 rejection of claims 1-2 and 4-6 based on Endelman '685 in view of Daleabout. Endelman FIG. 1 discloses a reformer. Endelman does not disclose rails having hinges. Daleabout Figures 1 and 3 show frame members which are hinged at one end of the frame members so that the frame member is folded vertically as described above.
- Claim 1 has been amended to recite a hinge which permits the front and rear rail sections to be folded with respect to each other so that the foot end remains in proximity to the floor as the rails are folded. Daleabout teaches away from the current invention. Claims 2, 4, 5, and 6 are dependent upon amended claim 1.

**§103 Rejection of claim 7 based on Endelman '685 in view of Endelman (PG Pub '227)**

5. Claim 7 is dependent upon amended claim 1. Neither Endelman '685 nor Endelman '227 application disclose a foldable reformer as claimed in the current invention.

Endleman '685 teaches a pair of removable posts 30. (FIG. 1 and col. 5, lines 26-47), and does not disclose pole extensions. Endelman '227 discloses pole extensions. For the record, Applicant notes that Endelman '227 was filed on March 18, 2004 and that none of the Endleman '227 family members which precede the 12/26/2001 filing date of the current invention appear to disclose pole extensions.

**Claims 3 and 8-22 and 30-33**

25

6. Claims 3 and 8-22 are dependent upon amended claim 1.
7. Claims 30-33 are dependent upon amended claim 28.

30 Applicant believes that the amended claims are in condition for allowance.

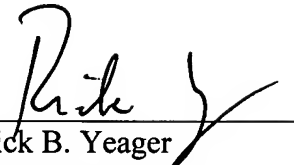
Thank you for your continued assistance in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

5 Date: October 11, 2005

10

15

  
Rick B. Yeager  
Attorney at Law  
10805 Mellow Lane  
Austin, Texas 78759  
Registration No. 39,434  
Telephone (512) 918-1237  
Facsimile (512) 918-1238  
No. of Application 10/392,162